MONTEREY NEWS

JANUARY 1993

TOWN NEWS

Undoubtedly the biggest news in town during the past month was the snowstorm that dumped upwards of 24 inches on Monterey, with several inches more reported in the higher altitudes. Characterized by the weather stations as a 100-year storm, this blizzard had our Highway Department working around the clock. The Selectmen have written a letter of commendation to the Highway Department, recognizing their valiant efforts in keeping the roads of Monterey as safe as possible. While some of our neighboring towns had to call in the National Guard, Monterey was lucky to be able to rely on the Highway Department and the help of the Tryon Construction Company. Armed with a bulldozer and a bucket loader, Ray and Leigh Tryon cleared some of the back roads that were too deep for the snow plows.

The Selectmen said that they were forced to estimate the storm damage immediately by state authorities, and estimated a budget overage of $14,000. They soon realized that their original estimate was too low and now say that the storm will end up costing the town at least $25,000.

Selectman Georgiana O'Connell reported that the first cases of raccoon rabies in Berkshire County occurred recently in Monterey. In the first incident, Mark Annelli's dog cornered a raccoon that proved to be rabid. Thankfully, the dog had been vaccinated against rabies, but it is now under the 90-day quarantine mandated by law. A second rabid raccoon was found on the public boat ramp at Lake Buel and reported to dog officer Martin Clark. For more information on this very serious situation, please see *Rabies Warning* elsewhere in this issue.

The Selectmen have received an informal agreement from Sydney Smithers, the attorney for the Simons'. Readers of this column will remember that the Simons' house on Sylvan Road, Lake Garfield has been the subject of much recent controversy regarding zoning violations. The suggested agreement indicates that the Simons are willing to move the house out of the setback area. When the move is completed, the Board will approve the house, and the Simons will be able to complete their renovations.

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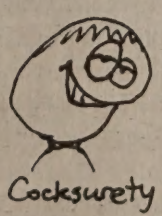
Osborne Dugan, Chairman of the Board of Appeals, stated recently at a public hearing that he believed that the article in the *Monterey News* about the confusion over non-conforming uses section of the Monterey zoning bylaws was "very poorly written." In the article, Part 2 of Section IV-E was characterized as "unenforceable." Chairman Dugan noted that this is incorrect. The correct interpretation of this section, which deals with enlarging and expanding non-conforming uses and structures is as follows: The 25% limit on expansions is not applicable to single- and two-family dwellings, because that is a use by right. The 25% limit on expansions applies only to uses by special permit.

Police Chief Gordon Hamm reported to the Selectmen that Monterey's two provisional police officers had successfully completed their training and requested that they be granted permanent appointments. It was unanimously voted by the Board to appoint Edward M. Briggs and Paul H. Bynack as officers of the Monterey Police Department.

The following building permit applications were approved: Mark Ferber of Concord, Massachusetts, for the demolition of a chicken coop on his Stevens' Pond property, submitted by Richard Sheridan, the contractor; Tom Gillis, for the construction of a storage shed on his Harmon Road property; Tom Gillis, for the construction of a (second) storage shed on his Harmon Road property; Fred Chapman, for the construction of a wind turbine to generate electricity on his Harmon Road property, submitted by David Hellman, his attorney; Richard Haapanen, for the construction of a garage and a bedroom and bathroom addition to his house on Chestnut Hill Road. The Board received a litter from Town Sanitarian Peter Kolodziej stating that the capacity of the existing septic system is sufficient for the addition.

— Maggie Leonard



RABIES WARNING

Early in December, the raccoon rabies epidemic, which has been spreading up the east coast for several years, reached Berkshire County. The first confirmed case was reported from Monterey.

Rabies is a viral disease that attacks the nervous system of warm-blooded animals. Untreated rabies is invariably fatal, and death from rabies involves great suffering. Rabies is transmitted through the saliva of an infected animal.

Although the rabies epidemic is serious, it is important to recognize that not all raccoons are rabid. Avoiding contact with raccoons and other wildlife is more effective in preventing rabies than wantonly destroying animal populations. In the past, shooting or otherwise destroying wildlife has proved neither practical nor successful in controlling rabies outbreaks.

Do not leave food outdoors, either for wild animals, or for pet cats and dogs. Feed your pets inside.

Do not approach wildlife and warn children against doing so.

Make sure your pets are vaccinated against rabies, and keep them from roaming. The law has long required rabies vaccination for dogs, and beginning in February, Massachusetts law also mandates rabies vaccination for cats.

If a person is bitten by a wild animal, he or she should wash the wound immediately and go to a doctor or a hospital emergency room. Treatment for rabies, which must begin before symptoms appear, consists of a series of five injections given in the arm. Dale Duryea, the town Wildlife Management Officer, should be called at 528-9335. Dale will catch and destroy the animal, and its brain will be examined for rabies antibodies.

If a previously vaccinated dog or cat is bitten, the animal will receive a rabies booster and be quarantined for 90 days. If the pet animal has not been vaccinated, it will be destroyed. It cannot be emphasized strongly enough: TO PROTECT YOUR PETS AND YOUR FAMILY, MAKE SURE YOUR DOGS AND CATS HAVE CURRENT RABIES VACCINATIONS.

Rabid animals exhibit strange behavior after the virus attacks their brain cells. They may become aggressive or hyperactive and may attack for no real reason. Symptoms of rabies include a wild-eyed expression, a sagging jaw, saliva dripping, trying to eat or drink but unable to swallow, drawing back of lips as if grinning, or extremely aggressive behavior.

There are other causes for bizarre behavior in wild animals besides rabies. Some may have distemper. Some dazed-looking animals may have recently emerged from a period of dormancy and merely be sleepy. Most animals with bad skin, runny eyes, etc. are ill with mange, distemper, parasites or other sicknesses. If you have any questions or problems, call Dale Duryea. Save the phone number: 528-9335.

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CHILDREN'S HEALTH PROGRAM

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a nice holiday and is in good health. We have two events planned for January to help combat the winter blues. In order to help mothers of infants get to know one another, we have set aside January 12, at 2:00 p.m. at St. James Church, Great Barrington for a mothers' social hour. Older siblings are invited, as a playgroup will be in session at that time. Try to come and meet one another, exchange phone numbers and experiences and ask questions. Claudette Callahan, Family Services Coordinator, will be there from CHP to give information.

A winter picnic (indoors!) is planned for January 25, 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the Otis Town Hall during the Otis playgroup. Leader Linda Tribula and Claudette will plan activities for parents and children to do during the long winter days, when outside play is not always an option. Copies of our booklet, *Kid's Kure for Kabin Fever*, which includes 100 activities submitted by South Berkshire parents a few years ago, will be available that day. The booklet is also on sale at CHP.

As always, we encourage parents to attend one or more of our parent-child playgroups. Funded by Berkshire United Way, the playgroups are free of charge. There have been some changes in the playgroup schedule since September. Sandisfield is now meeting on Monday afternoons, from 12:15-2:15 p.m. at the Community Center on Route 57. Updated playgroup schedules will be available at playgroups or can be obtained by calling CHP at 528-9311.

Parents and children who are overwhelmed by the large attendance at the Thursday morning Great Barrington playgroup might like to try the Stockbridge playgroup, also held on Thursday mornings at the Youth Building on Shamrock Street.

One of the major problems in our area is the high cost of housing. If you are interested in becoming a home owner, please read the article entitled *Fund for Affordable Housing*, elsewhere in this issue.

For those having problems paying fuel and utility bills, you may qualify for a discount. Please call the respective companies and request information. Fuel assistance may also be available from Community Services, 8 Castle Street, Great Barrington, 528-1947.

— Claudette Callahan

CHURCH NEWS

Welcome to 1993! With every January 1 comes the endless list of New Year's resolutions. The beginning of a new year is certainly a good time to think about new possibilities. It seems a most appropriate time for many of us to "get our act together." The only trouble is that our good intentions last about as long as a snow sculpture on a warm, sunny day. Perhaps part of the reason for the demise of our good intentions is that we've become limited in our thinking. We fall into the same routines and patterns, wishing for the same old things, not recognizing the entirely new opportunities right before our very eyes.

The beginning of the church's liturgical year starts a few weeks earlier with Advent, moves into the short season of Christmastide and is followed by Epiphany, the first holiday of the new calendar year. Epiphany literally means *manifestation* and refers to the appearance of the holy in the ordinary. In the church community, we celebrate the journey of the Magi, the Wise Men who, having interpreted the astrological signs in the heavens, travel in search of a new king who is to be born. Surprise! The king is not found in a palace, but in a stable. Surprise! There are no royal courtiers, just ragtag shepherds. Surprise! That's the message of Epiphany. Surprise!

Perhaps there's a message here for us in our mundane, ordinary existence. It is this: We do not live an ordinary, mundane existence! Every moment, every day is filled with holy surprises if we only open our eyes and look. Poet T.S. Eliot wrote, *There are only hints and guesses, hints followed by guesses; and the rest is prayer, observance, discipline, thought and action. The hint half guessed, the gift half understood, is Incarnation.*

Opening our eyes is only the first part of the surprise. The second part is making sense out of the hints we observe; and that takes imagination. Epiphany, for me, is a reminder that I must keep myself open to the holy moments of life, and even then, I need all my creativity for the guessing game. Even then, I may, at best, only half understand the epiphany, but that is Incarnation, the birthing of the holy.

There's a third step to this process. It's called commitment, the commitment to move forward to pursue this holy happening. The Wise Men could have easily made their observations, stayed at home and missed all the life-changing excitement.

So, with the birthing of a new year, shouldn't you be keeping your eyes open for hints of holiness? Rather than making hopeless New Year's resolutions, why not remain open to hope? What a wonderful way to live, when you're constantly looking under every rock, around every corner, into every relationship, for the hints, the guesses, the surprises that make life such a creative guessing game. May this Epiphany season fill you with surprise after surprise after surprise!

— Cliff Aerie

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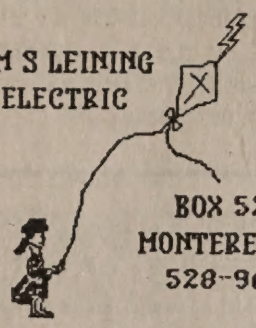

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PARK COMMISSION NEWS

Cold temperatures arrived the second week of December, and all hands were mobilized for around-the-clock ice-making. Seventeen volunteers took time slots in 2 1/2 hour intervals, and each in turn coated the rink with a thin layer of water from the hose. Three days and nights of ice-making provided the season's first skating and the early season scramble for the hockey gear.

And then came the snow, cutting the rink off from the outside world. Just when it looked as if we wouldn't see the rink until spring, the Highway Department came to the rescue with their plow. Thanks, guys! Now, the team of volunteers is scheduled to meet for a group "shovel fest," to clear the ice of snow, drifted in spots to five feet. By the time you read this, the normal skating schedule should be in effect.

The Park Commission attended the December 8 meeting of the Town Hall Committee. We have been discussing and planning the construction of tennis courts for several years. The town land behind the skating pavilion where the new town hall would be located, would be a practical location for tennis courts and expanded playground facilities. We see it as a town center, serving the community in infinite ways. Bob McMahon, the architect consulting with the Town Hall Committee, agreed that foresight and planning for all future needs is the logical way to proceed.

Join us in celebrating the return of the Berkshire winter. This may be the one we have all been waiting for. Happy New Year to everyone!

— Mick Burns, Jim Thomas, Tom Rosenthal

OUR TOWN
Snowstorms and Local Economy

Now that we've had a real winter again (and it's only the first of January), we can relax about this environment stuff, right?

For a while, it seemed like all of our traffic, power plants and industry had altered our atmosphere. We heard that we wouldn't have decent winters and that the coastal cities would be flooded. But now we suddenly have a winter in Berkshire County that is mentioned in the same breath as that awesome winter of '82. That's *1882*, do you remember? Well, I wasn't here then. For me, the big year was 1957-58. In northern Michigan, we had about all the snow a modern, wheel-based economy could stand, over 200 inches without a thaw. So, winter has returned, and all is fine.

We also have no energy crisis, no forest depletion, no clean water problem, and plenty of land for food, feed and lots of fish in the seas. Wrong.

Now, you and I (and the other folk in our town) don't usually get into crisis talk like the city and college people do. Things change more slowly here, and we have a longer memory. Maybe we communicate across the generations more. But, we're quite modern too, when we take account of it all. We buy lots of foreign gasoline and heating oil, build houses with wood from Oregon or British Columbia, eat fish from the rapidly decreasing Atlantic schools. Our corn flakes and tortilla chips come from those depleting corn fields of Iowa, and we build our subsurface anaerobic septic systems right next to the water table. Even the city folk don't do that any more.

No, we don't have an ecological crisis in our town yet. But, we are part of the modern mega-trend toward resource depletion and degradation because of our increasing dependence on resources from far away.

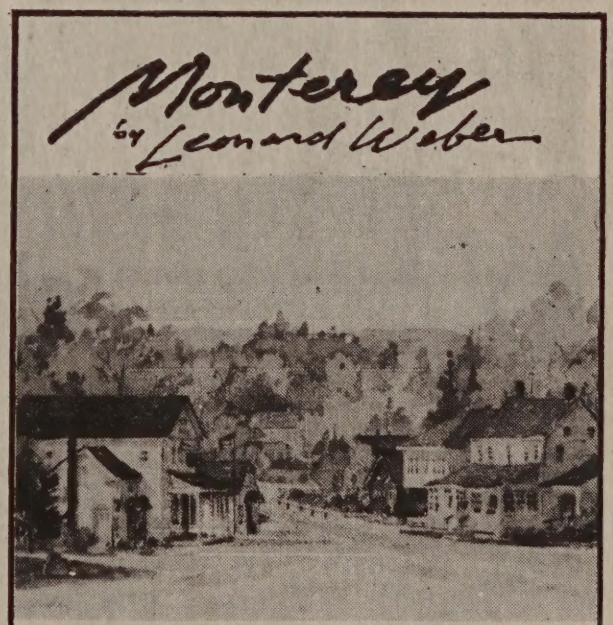
Even when the small trends come our way: the old-fashioned winters return, the price of fuel goes back down, we should believe what we hear from the mega-trend watchers. The climate will change; forests and soils and oceans will be depleted if we continue our past management; non-renewable fuels will become scarce and expensive.

But, maybe our town can help, even in a small way. It's not a crisis, but a challenge for us. We have deep resources, natural and traditional.

The time lies in the memories of some of our longer-lived residents when we hardly threw out any trash. When we were more self-sufficient in food, fuel and fiber. When we even harvested ice. The goal is not to turn back the clock. Our techniques will be modern, but our traditional, local-sufficiency can be revived. With the help of technology from the cities, and our greater power of local decision-making, we could lead in applying aerobic sewage systems and expanding community water works. We should be ready to support new, high quality products from ventures in aquaculture, agriculture and other natural resource based businesses.

These things will happen slowly, because it's not a crisis, and our current economy does not encourage change. But if we have a vision of the changes we need to make, locally and nationally, we will be more ready to draw upon our rural traditions of thrift and resourcefulness. Our town can help light the way to a better abundance through more local-sufficiency.

— Wayne Burkhart



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MONTEREY SCHOOL NEWS

There are 24 children from Monterey and New Marlboro in this year's kindergarten class at the Monterey School. Ten of the students live in the town of Monterey. They are a lively bunch, and keep teacher Susan Andersen and her assistant, Linda Thorpe, busy each day in the classroom and on the playground.

Kindergarten activities are not confined to the schoolhouse, however. Each Tuesday morning, the students walk down to the Monterey Library to choose books for their classroom. In November, after several weeks of planning and preparation, the whole class visited The Bidwell House for a guided tour with curator, Lisa Simpson. The children were attentive for well over an hour while Lisa told them about long-ago days, and they probably now know more about the Monterey of 200 years ago than most of us. Also in November, Judy Thomas, the school naturalist, came to Monterey to take the kindergarten children on a nature walk in their playground.

Kindergarten is the only opportunity the children of Monterey have to attend school in their own town. Living next door to the schoolhouse, as I do, I always enjoy seeing the students go into school in the morning, and hearing them out on the playground at recess. Having the school in our town strengthens our connection with the school system and with the children of our town, even after our own children are past school age. Two of my children went to kindergarten in Monterey, and my youngest is in this year's class. All their comments are positive, and the cozy atmosphere of the one-room schoolhouse is so clearly an important part of their memories of their introduction to formal school, that I hope the schoolhouse stays to feature in the memories of many more of Monterey's children.

On December 4, the day after one of our recent autumn snowstorms, the children stayed on the kindergarten bus and traveled down to Mount Everett for the elementary school's production of *The Nutcracker*. They had a wonderful time, made all the better because many of them saw older siblings or friends in the cast.

I hope to make this a regular column in the *Monterey News*. Next time, I plan to include Monterey-related news about the rest of the school system.

— Ann Higgins

The students of the Monterey kindergarten arrive at The Bidwell House for their tour.

THE BIDWELL HOUSE

Happy New Year to the people of Monterey from The Bidwell House! We are anticipating that 1993 will be the best year ever for the museum and hope that each and every one of you can participate in and enjoy the activities we have planned.

Despite the snow, we had a very successful Holiday Open House for members and contributors on Sunday, December 6. We estimate that seventy people braved the snow and cold weather to attend, and we thank everyone for their patience with the snowy parking situation. Many volunteers assisted to make the Holiday Open House a success. A very special thank you goes to Robert Kuhner, chairman of the event. Robert spent countless hours helping me decorate the house and securing in-kind donations from area nurseries. We would also like to thank Georgia Birkett, Clinton Elliott, Barbara Tryon, Edith Wilson, Bill Sequin, Bill Bohn, Mac Carlson and Judy Hayes for acting as hosts and hostesses. Thanks also to the kitchen crew of Barbie Shogren and Muriel Lazzarini. Cookies were baked by Bill Sequin, Jim Grandee, Ray Norrell, Alice Hale of Sunset Farms, Sally Fijux and David Walker-Price. E.B. Dolby Florist provided the poinsettias, Ward's Nursery & Garden Center provided the wreath, as well as other greens and Robert Brolli donated the spectacular artificial Christmas tree. Finally, a special thanks goes to Gary Eveland, my husband, for taking charge of the parking situation, and to board members, Bill Brockman and Jack Jefferson, who shoveled the walkway to the house.

January's big events will include tours of the house by six area Girl Scout troops, as well as a day-long workshop for them on herb gardens, led by students from Smith College. The workshop, which will teach the girls garden design and the medicinal uses of herbs in the 18th century, will fulfill one part of their folk art badge requirements. In addition, herbs will be started and nurtured until May, when they will be planted in the museum's new herb garden. Sixty students from Monterey, Otis and Great Barrington are participating in this exciting educational project.

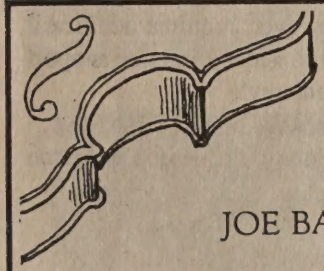
Finally, a word of thanks to all who have become members in our recent membership drive. As of this writing, we have sixty new members, which is a wonderful response from the community. If you have not yet joined, please consider doing so. We ask for money only once a year, and membership dues are an important part of our budget. We hope to offer more events for the adults and children of Monterey during the season. To do so, however, requires additional funds, so we hope you will consider joining to support this unique museum in Monterey!

— Lisa Simpson

FUND FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The Fund for Affordable Housing is seeking applicants to buy an affordable three-bedroom house in Great Barrington, priced at $70,000. The new homeowner family should be unable to afford a normally-priced home in the area, with a yearly income below $30,000, and will be expected to contribute labor.

Interested people are invited to attend an informational meeting and fill out a selection form. The meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 5, at 7:30 p.m. at the First Congregational Church on Main Street, Great Barrington. The qualifying phase of selection will be over in mid-January, so it is important to attend this meeting. This is a terrific opportunity to become a homeowner. For more information, call 528-1737, or pick up an information and selection form at Riverbank House, 195 Main Street, Great Barrington.



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LIBRARY FILM SERIES

The Monterey Library will again hold its annual Beat the Winter Doldrums Film Festival in January and February. At press time, the exact titles were not firm, but we hope to show four of the following: *City Lights, Top Hat, The Ladykillers, The Man Who Knew Too Much, The African Queen, Guys and Dolls.*

Please join us on Saturday evening, January 23 at 7:30, and the following three Saturdays: January 30, February 6 and February 13. Popcorn and apple juice will be available. If you need to know ahead of time which movies we'll be showing, please call the library at 528-3795, or stop in and pick up a poster. See you January 23!

MONTEREY GRANGE NEWS

Monterey Grange #291 met on December 3. The theme of the program was Preparing for Christmas. Members decorated the hall and worked on cheer boxes.

The Grange met again on December 16 for our annual Christmas party. Due to severe weather and illness, the attendance was small. Those present enjoyed a variety program, a gift exchange and a bountiful buffet.

The next meeting will be January 20. The theme of the program will be Down Memory Lane. Members are asked to bring a snowflake.

— Mary Wallace

MONTEREY WILDLIFE SURVEY

Rabies: As reported elsewhere in the *Monterey News*, the raccoon rabies epidemic has reached us. Monterey's first case occurred near the south end of Blue Hill Road early in December. Dale Duryea, our Wildlife Management Officer, says that another raccoon case and also a rabid woodchuck have been reported in Great Barrington. He has this message for the town: "If you see a raccoon looking a bit dazed, it is not likely to be rabid, but simply waking up slowly after a dormancy period. So, don't panic, but don't take risks either. Leave the wildlife alone." We can expect more cases of rabies come spring, after the breeding season in February and March. We have what is known as a climax population of raccoons, a situation that leads to the rapid spread of disease. In addition to rabies, there is quite a bit of distemper in the raccoon, fox and coyote populations. Dales phone number is 528-9335, if you have a problem with any wild animal.

Mammals: (starting with the biggest) Moose: we reported tracks last month. Now we have two sightings, in the Brett Road, Blue Hill Road area, and Art Hasted gives us historical depth: his daughter and son-in-law saw a moose eight or nine years ago across the road from the Open Heart Foundation on Monument Valley Road; it was reported in the papers a day or so later, seen near Taft Farms on Route 183. Bears: hibernating now, but one leaned on Mickey Jervas' back door, scratched at the window, emptied and destroyed the bird feeder. Deer: Dale gives a rough estimate of over 1,000 killed in Berkshire County during deer week, and still there are deer being hit by cars. This is another climax population. Coyotes are not singing in the cold weather, but one was seen across the road from Ernest Heath's, as was a red fox. A coyote with mange was seen in Otis. Wildcat: a big one, of perhaps 40 pounds, had a stand-off with a woodchuck in Art Hasted's hay field on Gould Farm Road two summers ago. The Hasteds saw the cat crouch and spring, seize the woodchuck, then lose it in a wild scramble, after which the woodchuck faced off the wildcat for some time and finally popped into its hole and safety. Otters: one following along a brook by Harmon Road, two in Art Hasted's pond, one caught a trout for Thanksgiving in the McAllesters' pond on Hupi Road. Squirrels: still *another* high population. Dale removed thirteen grey squirrels from one of the Thorn cottages; he dressed a couple for eating and found them heavily infested with internal parasites. The Amidons saw a black squirrel by a brook at the foot of Sandisfield Road; Dean saw them in Stanley Park in Westfield in the late '50s. They were said to have been imported from Russia. Later, he saw one in Blandford, one in Tyringham a year ago (there have been numerous reports from Tyringham), one in Otis, and now here. That's a marvelous sequence of sightings! Just to cinch their arrival in Monterey, there was one a month or so ago in the McAllester/Baker bird feeder on Hupi Road. Muskrats: their tracks have been seen along the Konkapot, right near the center of town.

Birds: Geese are still flying over and can still be seen on Lake Garfield where there is open water. Goldfinches: more than forty came through Gould Farm, just after the first heavy snowfall in early December. Was it a migration or another population climax? One or two at a time have been seen in other bird feeders. Tufted titmice: two reported regularly visiting the Schicks' bird feeder; Alice says that tufted titmice have been an exciting rarity in the past, and never before has there been more than one at a time. Ruffed grouse were spotted by Dale Duryea. Turkey: Art Hasted saw a hen on his lawn where the high winds of the second big snow had swept a place bare. The elder McAllesters saw a dozen a couple of weeks ago on Smith Hill (Tyringham Road).

Plants: Ginseng has been listed as endangered; Art Hasted has been a Johnny Appleseed of this interesting plant, so highly valued in Asia, where it is considered a restorative of male virility. There are patches of it in Monterey; when the fruits are ripe, Art distributes them to likely looking shady places in the woods. When a lot of sunlight comes in, due to logging, or a windfall, any ginseng that's there will disappear. Art reports that he has heard of wild ginger being used to overcome car sickness.

— David P. McAllester

DECEMBER 8-10, 1992

I must work for my survival.
Now the stage is set for fun.
Your agenda is my agenda—
Break out the poison pen.

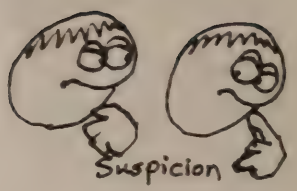
I am ashamed of the zealots,
intent on preserving the lost art
of speaking in complete sentences.
They don't realize the dumb mistake they've made.

I went through a bizarre period,
immoral, unethical and very dangerous.
Falling short of perfection
is a process that just never stops.

We would much prefer it
if they smiled when we smiled.
We're told they were not amused.
Let's hear it for the boss.

This is an elder statesman?
Uglier, more menacing, more depressing.
With Smith, you get eggroll.
If he wasn't dead, this would kill him.

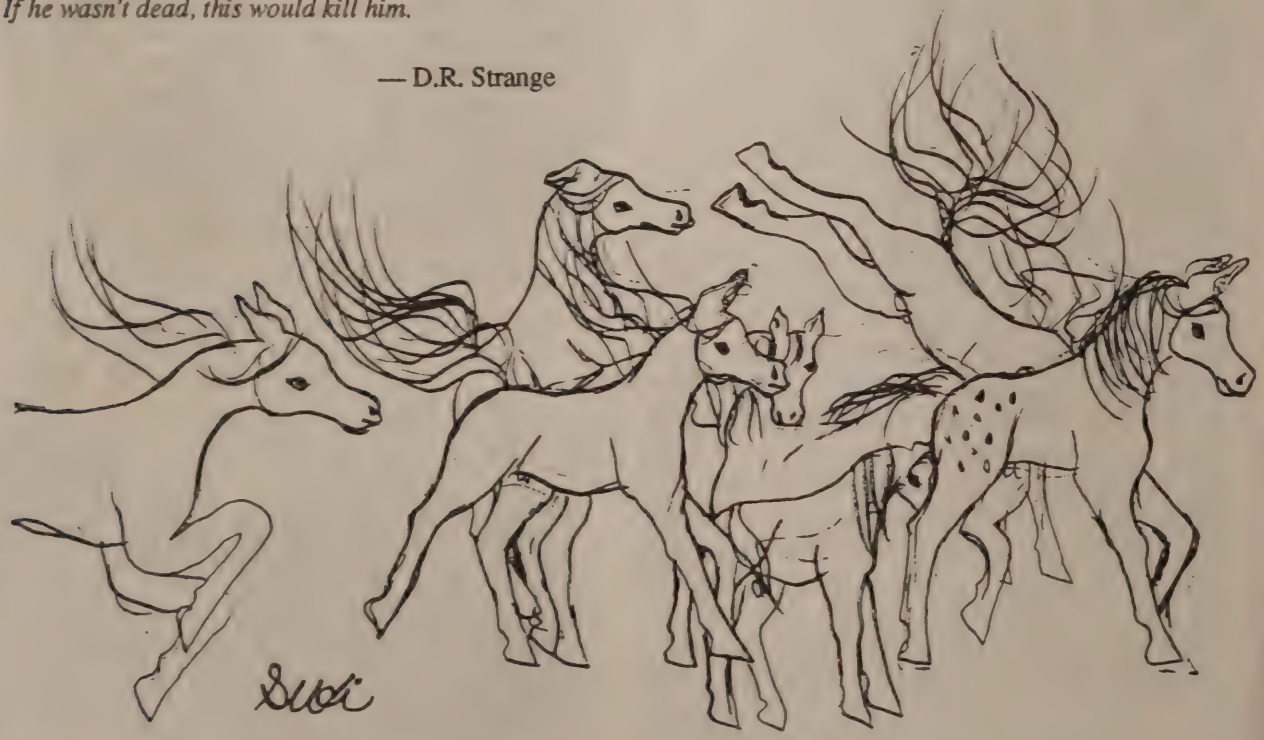
— D.R. Strange



SNOW GHOSTS

After the snow, heavy burdens of white
Clot the branches of the hardwoods,
And the drooping limbs of pines and hemlocks.
The strong wind surges through the woods:
Here and there a high snow-pack shifts and drops.
A forty-foot column of glittering fragments
Hangs in the air and moves before the wind
Through the trees and across the frozen meadow.
This company of wavering, transparent presences
Marches downwind to the singing of the gale,
Headed for some important, arcane meeting.

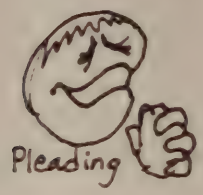
— David P. McAllester



ALMANAC

With this old almanac and the new year
Step forth boldly, put aside fear,
Shun your vices though they be dear,
Learn to live wisely — get into gear.

— Sue Moody



TO THOSE CONSIDERING WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS, TO WHICH YOU CAN'T GET FROM THERE AND WHERE SOME SAY NOTHING EVER HAPPENS

Behind the bright brass honeycomb
of boxes, the postmaster ponders packages,
Considers the possible consequence of collusion
Between cards of bereavement and bales of
Funeral flowers, backordered, found
Fermented under and around the openings
Allowing mail to move into Massachusetts.
Children, marvel his cold, calculated and
Resolute courage: "Return the requiem.
Dontcha realize the deceased ain't dead?"

Never despair, noting "Nothing
Happens north of Hartford." Heavens!
We haven't wanted. Westward,
Plovers waddle the prairies, pintos
Gallop the plains. Go? Gather
Moss? Mosey? Meander? God's
Eagle eyes mist easily
When envy's way wins.
We'll stay, sincerely satisfied,
Here. Secure? Hell, happy
Beside our bright brass honeycombs.

—MaryKate Jordan

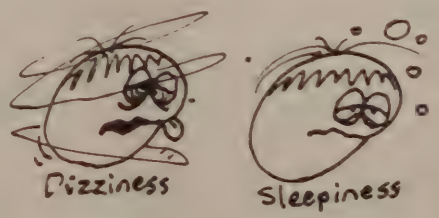
JOURNEY BY VOLKSWAGEN

We travelled at first the vulnerable valleys
which hence will be riven by waters of rivers
to terrible canyons (spare growth on the verges,
each wrinkle exposed, lewd revelation of the voyage
of time) as if this traverse would be turned topsy-turvy,
the end the beginning, the departure the vision,
but our vision was ever the marvelous mountains,
a sierra nevada *of early October, investing*
white domes into wrack-pestered heaven,
the roiling wrack unveiling and veiling
summits, the sun, the sky.

When we approached
the monolith rampart it began to resolve into
various passages, uniformity made complex
by the truth of our nearness, vacancies rising
among inferior hilltops, vagabond windings
though in general ascending; thus we went
into the mountains, our view of the valleys
ineluctably vanishing and our visions
of mountains ineluctably vanishing, for pent
in those foldings of flatland to ridges
all we could know were the vagabond windings.

So rising by vacancies bordered by snowfields,
avid to enter our vision of mountains,
we passed through the foldings; then plain
shone the summits, but the valleys winked vaguely
through volutions of foldings, the implacable
rivers intermittent conjectures. The summits
we saw were uplifted rock, the roiling wrack
vexings of vapor, frozen water the snowfields:
and the valleys winked vaguely.

— Jim Michelman



The "six-sided plate," one of the four basic types of snow crystals. The hexagonal symmetry reflects the atomic architecture of the molecules of hydrogen and oxygen in the frozen water.

THE PROS AND CONS OF SNOW

Sometimes it is necessary to decide how you feel about something, for instance, a certain make of car if you are thinking of buying one. You have to consider its pros and cons, and if you are like us, yesterday, you even sit down with a clean piece of paper and a pencil. (We put the pros on the left, cons on the right.) Although this listing of attributes has not, for us, resulted in a decision about what car to buy, it has given us a thorough look at a car, from both sides. We feel we *know* this car, now.

We also feel, after the storms of December, that we know snow. On December 3, here in Monterey, we got 18 inches of snow. At least on my garden, that's what we got, because I measured it when I went up to dig out the carrots. When I went up there, with snow to my knees (you have to lift the buckets *up* to carry them, and this is not so easy when they are full of carrots), I was thinking: Do I like this? This is mighty hard work, nuisancy snow. I put on the right hand side of the snow paper, "Hard work."

After I had cleared off the carrot bed, I got a big surprise. The ground was practically warm underneath, soft and fluffy and even aromatic as on a summer day. Snow on the left-hand column, "Insulates, protects living things. Keeps my carrots from freezing."

That night at the bird feeder, we had only two flying squirrels instead of nine or ten. We wondered about the others and about the small animals in general. The next morning, I watched a grey squirrel making slow and careful progress along a maple branch about forty feet up. There were four inches of snow along the branch. The squirrel considered for a time the wisdom of leaping across space to a cherry tree, also quite snowy, and finally went back, down, and out a different maple branch before making her leap. Even using this better route, she barely made her landing, and hung precariously before scrambling upright. So, on the right-hand side of the snow paper, I put, "Makes forward progress dangerous, for some."

We have two children here, and I have to say that a major, undeniable pro for snow is that it makes kids happy. They love to frolic about in it and come into the house all snowy and needing a kleenex. They go outside again to wait for you with snowballs. We grown-ups sometimes frolic in snow, too, and we think it is beautiful. We do have to move it around, with tools and machines, but mostly we manage this pretty well and feel a sense of accomplishment afterward. We may even have the illusion of physical fitness that comes from a heightened awareness of certain muscles and joints the day after much snow shoveling. These are all pros of snow.

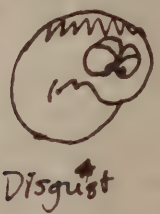
Do the entries shift from left to right when suddenly you get two days and nights of snow and become a national disaster area? When the tools and machines move slowly or not at all? When the body parts make that subtle slide from glowing to aching to howling? It all depends. When I heard we were a disaster, I looked forward to the arrival of the National Guard. I stood in the driveway, waiting for the big camouflage payloaders to roar in, possibly knocking down the chicken shed on the way, to rescue us from Ma Nature. I thought maybe one of those monstrous transport planes we sometimes see from the turnpike would carry us all off (and our pets and house plants) to some place less snowy, like Sheffield. None of this actually came to pass, but I consider it one of the pros of snow that I was even able to fantasize this way. Snow makes you dream.

No account of snow would be complete without mention of its temperature. Snow is cold, and as far as some people are concerned, this marks the end of the discussion. Jesse Winchester and Robbie Robertson wrote a song about snow: "I was tuning in the six o'clock newscast when the weatherman mentioned snow. As soon as I heard that four letter word I was

making my plans to go." It *is* cold, and cold can kill you. Recently, my daughter and I had a discussion about heaven. "I think heaven is some place warm," Sudi said. "Like summer with green, growing things. But if you *wanted* to be cold, you could have it be cold just right around you just the way you wanted it without making everybody cold."

Snow is cold, yet it keeps my carrots from freezing. Snow can get you soaked and drag your body into hypothermia if you are unlucky or unwise, but it can lift your spirits right up out of the dark time of the year with its sparkly and light and the new look it gives to a familiar old world. Maybe the listing of pros and cons has not led me to a decision about cars, but I look at the snow sheet, and it's clear how I feel about snow. When I get to heaven, I am hoping for no cars and plenty of snow.

— Bonner J. McAllester



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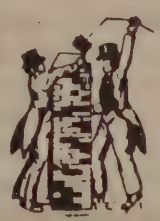
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INDIAN NOTES

Two New Books on the Mahicans

The Mahicans of Stockbridge, Patrick Frazier: Lincoln, Nebraska, University of Nebraska Press, 1992.

Schmick's Mahican Dictionary, Johann Jacob Schmick, compiled 1753-1767, Carl David Masthay, ed.: Philadelphia, American Philosophical Society, 1991.

Our local Indians, the Muhikunneuw, are not well represented in our book stores or libraries, except for the historical collection in the Stockbridge Public Library under the capable supervision of its director, Polly Pierce. The first book listed above is the only trade book available; the second, like most of the writings about the Mahicans, is part of a scholarly series, a little hard for the average reader to get his hands on. Both books are treasures.

Frazier, who chose to retain the spelling of James Fenimore Cooper's imaginary tribe, describes the Mahicans' history from 1735-1785, the period when they inhabited "Indiantown," later known as Stockbridge. Using primary sources, many of which have not been brought together in one book before, he brings the Indians vividly to life. We follow them from the early, hopeful days of the missionary settlement through five decades of discouragement, as the land-hungry English colonists acquired the thirty-six square miles, by fair means and foul, that had been set aside for the Indians "forever."

Frazier's information is particularly rich on the scouting parties and campaigns during the French and Indian Wars and the Revolution in which the Mahicans participated. News of the Battle of Lexington and Concord reached Stockbridge at sundown, April 21, 1775, and the next morning, two militia companies set out for Boston. *By the end of April. . .the Stockbridge Indians, painted for war, set up wigwams in the woods adjoining a farm owned by a Tory, Ralph Inman. . .at the present site of Inman Square (Cambridge). A few days later six more Stockbridges joined the company, and more joined as the siege of Boston began in earnest. Some veterans from the previous war were present, as were two of Jacob Naunauphtaunk's sons,. . .Jacob and Abraham Konkapot, and John Wauwaumpequunaunt's son, Daniel, and one of the Nimham clan. Chief Daniel Nimham arrived with others in late June. A father and son, both named William Nontonksion, were part of the company, and some tribesmen had brought their wives and children.*

. . .

British redcoat sentries were excellent targets for guerilla strikes throughout the summer. The Indians, and the rough-cut Americans who had adopted their tactics, caused one British officer to lament: "Never had the British army so ungenerous an enemy to oppose; they send their riflemen (five or six at a time), who conceal themselves behind trees, etc., till an opportunity presents itself of taking a shot at our advanced sentries, which done they immediately retreat. What an infamous method of carrying on a war!"

The Stockbridge camp was visited by a chaplain to the American troops, William Emerson, grandfather of Ralph Waldo Emerson. He wrote in his diary: *I had ye pleasure of sitting down with 'em at a fine mess of clams, cooked and eat in ye true genuine Indian taste. I wish you had been there to see how generously they put their fingers into ye dish and picked out some of ye largest clams to give me, & with what a gust I eat them. Be sure it is the greatest diversion I have had since I have been in ye camp.*

On the night of August 1, on a sortie against redcoat sentries, William Nontonksion, Sr. and Abraham Naunauphtaunk were wounded by American fire and later died. They were the first Indians to be killed on the patriot side in the Revolution. Losses in other campaigns and still greater losses to disease claimed over half the men of Stockbridge. These casualties, plus the loss of their land, so dispirited the Mahicans that they accepted an offer of land from the Oneida Indians in central New York and were mostly gone from Stockbridge by 1785.

We can hope that Patrick Frazier will publish a companion volume on Mahican history from 1785 to the present. Their many removals, ever farther west, to their present location in Wisconsin, makes an inspiring story of steadfastness in the face of adversity. They retained their unity as a people and, as teachers, missionaries and civic leaders, played an important role in civilizing the western territories and acting as intermediaries between the government and the "wild" tribes there.

Masthay's impeccably edited publication of the Schmick dictionary is a tour de force of decoding. Schmick, a Moravian missionary, recorded the words and phrases in German Gothic script. His manuscript, 378 pages in two hand written volumes, lay unstudied in the Philosophical Society archives until the present-day Mahicans in Wisconsin asked Masthay to compile

a grammar. This request led to a search for vocabularies in the two-dozen extant Mahican-language writings. Schmick's dictionary was such a find that it merited publication in a form that English-speaking readers could use.

The work is a dictionary and grammar combined. For each verb, Schmick appends a number of phrases showing different forms. Thus, under *afraid*, there are 31; under *go*, there are more than 150! From a repository such as this, a linguist can begin to generate new sentences that have not been recorded anywhere, and this is what Masthay will do when he writes the grammar. The language, which became extinct when the last speaker died in the 19302, will become alive again.

A language is like a species of living creature that has evolved over time to suit the purposes of particular conditions. Each one has worked out a unique perspective through which its speakers understand the world. All these understandings from different languages are not too many to help us try to grasp the complexity that surrounds us. If our language treats *cloud* and *river* as nouns, we get a different notion of these phenomena than we would if we used the Hopi language, which treats them as verbs. And to know that fact about Hopi broadens our perspectives about clouds and rivers.

The passenger pigeon became extinct about twenty years before the same thing happened to the Mahican language. But it is a little like having a passenger pigeon light in our bird feeder when, with the help of Schmick and Masthay, we can say, "Sta nkwachaweuna!" (pronouncing the *ch* as in the German *Bach* or the Scottish *loch*) and know that it means, "We are not afraid!"

—David P. McAllester

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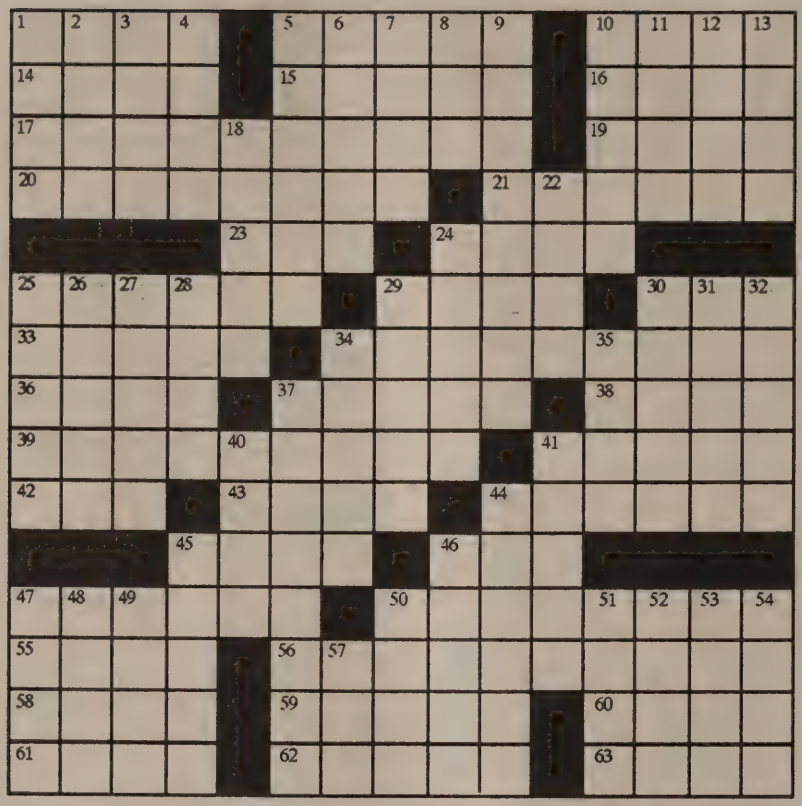
OVER AND UNDER

By Ted Tchack



ACROSS

1 Kind of wolf or vark
5 Biblical tribe
10 Melt
14 La___tar pits
15 Purloined
16 Pace
17 SUBDUES
19 ___La Douce
20 SUPPORTED
21 Vibration
23 Comic book cry
24 Won on the serve
25 Expressionless
29 Burden
30 Article
33 Posed again
34 PROPOSALS
36 Elevator name
37 Once yours
38 Arena
39 SECRET
41 Weapon
42 Digit
43 Present
44 More slippery
45 Celebrate
46 Woman's name
47 More remote
50 BOSS
55 Tramp
56 MUTE
58 Sufficient poetically
59 Drift
60 Movie dog
61 Norma and family
62 Must
63 Time period

DOWN

1 ___ben Adhem
2 Viet Nam Mil. force
3 Grass
4 Venture
5 Scarlett's beloved
6 Sirloin
7 Sacred
8 Tree
9 Kind of therapy
10 Cornered
11 Injury
12 Prefix meaning air
13 Erode
18 Extract
22 Remainder
24 Put____to
25 Masonry need
26 "____ man put asunder"
27 Apart
28 Envelope enc.
29 Sheepish
30 Bandleader Lopez
31 From here
32 Glacial ridge
34 Midwest terminal
35 Mountain range
37 "Nothing but ____"
40 Former Korean leader
41 Fibbers
44 GO TO EXCESS
45 Runs
46 Happening
47 Actress
48 Ms O'Neill
49 Wind
50 Poems
51 Remain
52 Comfort
53 Ms Kett
54 Raise
57 D.C. lobby

Answers on page 20

ON THE ROAD AGAIN
Going South

People shouldn't leave their houses on Thanksgiving! We had a holiday party the Sunday before, and I had planned to leave on Monday, but on Monday, something was wrong with the camper. On Tuesday and Wednesday, there was something wrong with both cars. So, early Thanksgiving morning, Joan and her three dogs, two pups and one cat, kissed Tim good-bye, and the camper-pulling-Toyota disappeared down the road.

I have never seen so many cars on the highway. Everybody and his brother was going somewhere! Constant stopping. . .wet brakes didn't help (I thought).

The rain stopped when I got to Pennsylvania, but the fog was bad when I climbed to 2000 feet over the mountains. I drove past Dinghams Ferry, Lords Valley, Blooming Grove, Promised Land State Park and Lake Wallenpaupack. In the rear-view mirror, I saw some pieces of rubber bounce across the highway. Right away, my mind thought the camper was riding rough. I took the next exit. In the dark, with only a flashlight, I couldn't find anything wrong, but I saw gas pouring out of the gas tank I had just filled. Nobody around. I went back to Scranton.

The man said the tires were OK, and the gas had stopped coming (perhaps the problem had been over-fill). I was frazzled. Two more hours to go, and the rain had started again. "Oh, no," I thought. I parked outside a video store, across two parking spaces, with the camper level (necessary for the refrigerator to work properly). The evening was mild. As I walked the dogs, I planned a story to tell the police, if they came around.

Although people streamed into the video store, no one bothered me. Across the street was a Sheraton Hotel. I had a turkey dinner for Thanksgiving. I slept well. No police.

The next morning found us sailing down I-81, when the red brake light went on. I tried the brakes — not too much there. Off at an exit to a gas station with a garage. The man found half the brake fluid gone. He filled it up, but in a few minutes, it had disappeared. "You have a problem!" He sent me down to the next exit to a little man with a little brake shop. Four hours later, I was on my way again.

I was a day late for my stay at a Thousand Trails Park in Hershey, Pennsylvania. I went anyway. They were very gracious. I couldn't find a space, dark and misting. A nice man said, "I was keeping this spot for a friend. She isn't here yet — you take it." So I got settled. The camper furnace came on. I warmed my leftover Thanksgiving turkey in my microwave and got to starting this column on my word processor. I realized I hadn't gotten very far on my trip, but every night is different when you're on the road.

— Joan Woodard Reed

Gould Farm

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B	R	E	A	■	S	T	O	L	E	■	R	A	T	E
O	V	E	R	W	H	E	L	M	S	■	E	R	M	A
U	N	D	E	R	L	A	Y	■	T	R	E	M	O	R
■	■	■	■	E	E	K	■	A	C	E	D	■	■	■
G	L	A	S	S	Y	■	O	N	U	S	■	T	H	E
R	E	S	A	T	■	O	V	E	R	T	U	R	E	S
O	T	I	S	■	T	H	I	N	E	■	R	I	N	K
U	N	D	E	R	H	A	N	D	■	L	A	N	C	E
T	O	E	■	H	E	R	E	■	O	I	L	I	E	R
■	■	■	F	E	T	E	■	E	V	A	■	■	■	■
C	O	O	L	E	R	■	O	V	E	R	S	E	E	R
H	O	B	O	■	U	N	D	E	R	S	T	A	T	E
E	N	O	W	■	T	R	E	N	D	■	A	S	T	A
R	A	E	S	■	H	A	S	T	O	■	Y	E	A	R

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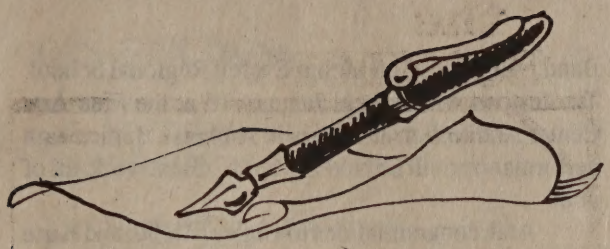

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

I would like to publicly commend our stalwart Highway Department crew, who worked twenty hours a day through the most recent snowstorm, going home only to catch a couple of hours' sleep to keep themselves from falling asleep at the wheel. I live on Route 23, and I saw them pass by many, many times during the storm. Each time I ventured out to walk the dog, Main Road was completely passable.

The Monday after the storm, I compared notes with some of my customers from Dalton to Sheffield, and nowhere were the roads better maintained than in Monterey. In quite a few towns, the situation was much worse.

Just yesterday (Thursday after the storm), this same crew was again out on the roads, making sure the storm drains were clear as the rains came down. Some might say that all this is only their job, but I drove through Lee after the storm, on Monday and again on Thursday, and the situation there was inexcusable — snow and ice still remained on Main Street!

I think we can rightfully attribute our clear roads to the hard work of Don Amstead, Pete LePrevost, Bill Bynack and Steve Funk. Thanks, guys!

— Eileen Clawson

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PERSONAL NOTES

Hearty congratulations to **Jay Stephen** and **Faye Morgan Amidon** on the birth of their first child, a daughter, named **Nicole Morgan Amidon.** Nicole was born in Great Barrington on November 28, weighing in at 7 lbs. 9 1/2 oz. Best wishes also to beaming grandparents, **Dean** and **Fran Amidon**, for them, their tenth grandchild. Dean reports that Nicole is very, very pretty.

And Gould Farm babies! Congratulations to Executive Director, **Brian Snyder** and **Paula McGurie Snyder**, whose daughter, **Kerry Jeanne**, was born on November 26. And, to staff members, **Christopher** and **Kim Hines**, whose twins, **Graham William** and **Madigan Doris**, were born on December 3.

Our **Vikki True** is receiving rave reviews for her portrayal of Sophie Tucker in the musical, *Sophie, Totie and Belle*, held over in Philadelphia through December. Critic Al Golde states, "Sophie is depicted by Vikki True, whose impression left me in awe." Michael Kownady writes, "Vikke True as Sophie...not only delivers the jokes with aplomb, but can she sing!" Oh, Vikki — you do us proud!

Hats off to **Tish Thorpe**, president of the Golden Reins 4-H Club and 4-H Teen Leader, who was honored by the Berkshire County 4-H at the 1992 4-H Salute to Excellence ceremony held in Pittsfield. Tish received the Senior Top-H award, cited for her accomplishments in the horse project and 4-H club work, and for her citizenship work as a member of the Monterey Volunteer Fire Department. State Senator Jane Swift joined Cooperative Extension specialists in presenting the awards. Tish received another honor when she was named to the All-Berkshire Girls' Volleyball team. She was cited by *The Berkshire Eagle* as "the main reason the Eagles finished 7-7 in their first year in the league. She exhibited exceptional defensive range and was her team's top hitter, setter and digger." A junior at Mount Everett Regional School, Tish is the daughter of **Leroy** and **Linda Thorpe** of Main Road.

Kudos to Monterey students who auditioned and were accepted to perform in the Western District Music Festival, sponsored by the Massachusetts Music Educators Association. Cellist **Josh Aerie**, a sophomore at Monument Mountain Regional High School, will perform with the orchestra. **Leah Bohn** was accepted into the Senior High Chorus, and **Bethany Sadlowski** into the Junior High Chorus. **Shaylan Burkhart** and **William Conklin** will perform in the Junior High Band. All four attend Mount Everett Regional School. The festival will be held January 16 at the Fine Arts Center Auditorium at UMass in Amherst. Junior high performances will be held in March. Great work, all of you!

And, congratulations to **Claire Mielke** and **Kate Vallianos**, budding artists at New Marlboro Central School, who created winning posters for their grades in the Reading is Fundamental program. Claire is in Grade 2, and Kate in Grade 4. Good job, girls!

And, congratulations to Monterey students named to the Honor Roll for the first quarter. At Monument Mountain, in Grade 11, **Erin** and **Meghan Sadlowski** made High Honors; and in Grade 10, **Josh Aerie** and **Paul Makuc** made High Honors. At Mount Everett, in Grade 12, **Christopher Burkhart** made High Honors; in Grade 11, **Leah Bohn**, **Bruce Snow** and **Carey Tobin** made Honors; and in Grade 10, **Erin Piretti** made Honors. Also, in Grade 8, **Shaylan Burkhart**, **Morgan Clawson** and **William Conklin** made High Honors; and in Grade 7, **Eoin Higgins** made High Honors and **Bethany Sadlowski** made Honors. At Berkshire Country Day School, in Grade 9, **Morgan Schick** made High Honors. Wonderful to spot so many Monterey names. Keep up the good work, all of you!

Very Happy Birthday wishes to **Stacy Ingher** (belatedly) on December 20, to **Don Welsch** on January 3, to **Joshua Gardner** on January 4, to **Spencer O'Connell Pope** on January 9, to **Cindy Hebert** on January 10, to **Jim Deloy** on January 11, to **Julian Mendel** on January 13, to **Bridget Mendel** on January 15, and to **Andrew Gardner** on January 27. And, Happy Anniversary wishes to **Don** and **Carol Welsch** on January 5, and to **Rod** and **Jeri Palmer** on January 23.

WISHING YOU ALL A JOYFUL, PROSPEROUS AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR!

Please continue to share your news items. Your contributions are so appreciated. For the coming month, the procedure will be a little different. I will be on vacation for much of January, so please sent any information for February's *Personal Notes* directly to the *Monterey News*, P.O. Box 9, Monterey, MA 01245

— Stephanie Grotz

CONTRIBUTIONS

We are grateful to the following people for their contributions during the past month:

Karen & Paul Volckhausen
William McKee
Alice M. Hanlon
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CALENDAR

Tuesday, January 5 — Fund for Affordable Housing informational meeting. 7:30 p.m. at the First Congregational Church, Main Street, Great Barrington. For more information, see *Fund for Affordable Housing*, elsewhere in this issue.

Saturday, January 9 — SQUARE AND CONTRA DANCE, New England style, at the Sheffield Grange, Route 7, Sheffield, Mass. 8:30-11:30 p.m. Beginners and children welcome. All dances taught by caller Joe Baker, music by Mountain Laurel. Refreshments served. Adults $4, children $1 to dance until intermission. Information: 528-9385.

Friday, January 15 — Benefit for the Berkshire Humane Society. *They Call It Puppy Love*, an evening of '50s and '60s rock 'n' roll, with the Sweet Tarts. 8:00 p.m. at the Berkshire Public Theatre, 30 Union Street, Pittsfield. Tickets: $20. For reservations or more information, call the Berkshire Public Theatre at 445-4631 or the Berkshire Humane Society at 447-7878.

Saturday, January 16 — Benefit for the Berkshire Humane Society. See *Friday, January 15*.

Tuesday, January 19 — Free blood pressure clinic. 9:00-10:30 a.m., downstairs at the town hall.

Wednesday, January 20 — Monterey Round Table meeting. 7:30 p.m. at the home of Marge and Gerry McMahon.

Saturday, January 23 — Film Festival. 7:30 p.m. at the Monterey Library.

Saturday, January 23 — SQUARE AND CONTRA DANCE, New England style, at the Sheffield Grange, Route 7, Sheffield, Mass. 8:30-11:30 p.m. This program is for people who have some square or contra dance experience. All dances taught by caller Joe Baker, music by Mountain Laurel. Refreshments served. Admission $4. Information: 528-9385.

Saturday, January 30 — Film Festival. 7:30 p.m. at the Monterey Library.

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We invite your submissions of news items, opinions, stories, poetry, drawings and photographs. All editorial material should reach the editor by the 15th of the month before publication. For questions about editorial material, call the editor at 528-3128.

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One-inch ad (1" x 3")	$ 2.50
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Drawings in this issue by Cora Baker, Sudi Baker, Maureen Banner, Bob Johnson, Ben Laux, Bonner McAllester, Anne O'Connor and Vicki Reed.

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